PRESTATYN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. R. Rhydwen, D.S.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Mr. I. WYNN JONES, M.S.I.A.

Cert Meat and other Foods.

FOR THE YEAR 1953

Arthur Williams & Co., High Street, Prestatyn. Tel. 156.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953

Coun. W. H. Shepherd (Chairman)

Coun. Mrs. Eleanor Evans J.P.	Coun. R. T. Jones
,, C. F. Lloyd-Ellis	,, E. O. Jones
,, J. F. Jones,	,, J. O. Jones,
,, N. Stewart	,, O. H. Williams

Coun. W. S. Romain.

Chairman of the Council: Coun. J. R. Gilbert, J.P.

Staff of the Public Health Department—

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. R. RHYDWEN, D.S.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: Meat & Food Insp.:

I. WYNN JONES, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat & Food Insp.

General Assistant:

J. E. PARRY.

Clerk/Student:

R. D. JONES.

Meteorological Officer:

T. GRANT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the
Prestatyn Urban District Council.

I beg to submit my report for the year 1953 for your consideration.

The general health of the district has been good; Infectious disease cases were more numerous, due to the regular biennial increase in the number of cases of measles. 137 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year as compared with 53 in 1952.

Note must be made of the fact that 556 cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

These cases occurred in a Holiday Camp in the area and were spread over the season, the largest number notified in one day being 284. Investigations of the victims faeces, food consumed, detergents used, and of the staff revealed no definite cause for the trouble. Indeed all investigations were negative. These investigations went on for the whole of the summer and involved the health department in a great deal of work. The extent of the investigations can be gauged by the fact that the Public Health Laboratories at Conway carried out more than 300 examinations of material during this period.

Improvements were carried out in the Camp kitchens during the winter and close collaboration is still being maintained between the Health Department and the Camp.

Acknowldgement must also be made of the advice given by the Welsh Board of Health, who were consulted

regarding the outbreaks of gastroenteritis at the Camp and whose Medical Officer visited the Camp on two occasions.

I know that all of the food handlers in the town are aware of the need for scrupulous cleanliness and attention to personal hygiene amongst food handlers and I appeal to them not to relax their care now that we have for two years achieved our objective.

I would again stress the need for scrupulous cleanliness and attendance to personal hygiene amongst all food handlers. A serious outbreak of food poisoning could do untold harm to a holiday resort.

Statistics

As was to be expected owing to the high percentage of elderly people living in the town, our death rate was higher than the average, and our birth rate lower than the average for the country.

The Infant Mortality rate was 9 3 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 31.9 per 1,000 live births in 1952. The rate is below that for England and Wales as a whole, which is 26 8 per 1,000 live births.

Elderly People and Elderly Sick People.

Difficulty is experienced in finding hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick. This is a nation-wide problem, due mainly to the shortage of nursing staff, and I regret to state that I see no immediate prospect for improvement.

The opening of more Homes for Aged Persons by the Flintshire County Council should alleviate the position in regard to the accommodation of aged and infirm persons

Housing

A further 19 houses were completed at Maes Hendre, Meliden during the year and a further 11 were in the course of erection.

During the year the remaing 10 houses of the second development of 52 houses at Maes Hendre, Meliden, which were in progress of building at the end of 1952 were completed and progress made with the third development of 20 houses. At the end of the year 9 of the 20 houses were completed. Before any further houses can be completed it will be necessary to develop land with roads and sewers. The planning of this land is in hand.

The total number of completed houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was as follows:—

Caradoc Terrace, Prestatyn	...	15
Dawson Park ,,	...	72
Bryn Rhosyn ,,	...	174
Ffordd Bryn Melyd and Isfryn Road, Meliden ...	...	44
Maes Hendre, Meliden	...	87
		392

267 of these houses have been built since the war.

62 new houses were completed by private enterprise during the year and 46 houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

The list of applicants for housing still remains heavy, but the position has now eased considerably and the majority of applicants living under very bad conditions have now been housed.

All our essential services have been carefully supervised as you will note from the report, and the standard of milk and ice cream production has been most satisfactory.

Appended are the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector, the Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act and the Climatology readings as taken by Mr Grant.

My Report would not be complete without an expression of thanks to the Health Committee for their keen interest, activity and co-operation and to the Sanitary Inspector and Staff of the Public Health Department for their keeness and exceptional energy in tackling the problems which arose during the year. To the Clerk and all my colleagues on the Council staff I express my gratitude for their helpful co-operation.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. RHYDWEN.

Water Supply

The Water Supply has been maintained at a high standard of purity. All samples submitted for bacteriological examination were reported as being class 1—highly satisfactory.

The number of samples submitted by the Water Dept. during the year was :

Bacteriological examination—

(a)	Raw Water.	0
(b)	Filtered Water	0
(c)	Filtered and Chlorinated Water	47

Chemical examination—

(a)	Raw Water	0
(b)	Filtered Water	0
(c)	Filtered & Chlorinated Water	1

New mains were laid Y Ffrith, Green Lane, Norman Drive and Kirby Avenue, Prestatyn, and Penllan, Meliden. A portion of the steel main in Gronant Road was relayed with spun iron pipes. Practically all houses in the area are supplied from the mains.

Number of dwelling houses served by public mains direct to house...	3028
Estimated population of above dwelling houses ...	10598
Number of dwelling houses served by public mains by means of stand pipes	83
Estimated population of above dwelling houses ...	280

Six houses occupied by twenty-four persons are supplied by wells, springs, etc.

CERTIFICATES OF ANALYSIS

Samples of Water—

(1) Council Offices, Prestatyn, Tap —8/1/53.

(2) Gronant Warren, Tap, Holywell R.D C. Mains—1/5/53.

	C.O.P.	Warren
In Parts per million of Water.		
Total solid matter in solution ...	300.00 ...	560.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.50 ...	1.25
Nitrites	Nil. ...	Nil.
Chlorine in Chlorides	26.00 ...	30.00
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 Hours at 80 deg. F. ...	0.27 ...	0.20
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil. ...	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.02 ...	0.01
Lead, Copper, Zinc	Nil. ...	Nil.
Microscopical Examination of the sediment	Nil. ...	Nil.
Temporary hardness	150.00 ...	300.00
Permanent Hardness	40.0 ...	60.0
pH Value	7.00 ...	7.20

The above Chemical analysis are very satisfactory.

The water can be classed as hard.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

During efforts to trace an endemic of diarrhoea at the Prestatyn Holiday Camp, six samples of Mains water were taken. All proved satisfactory.

Sewerage

The sewerage scheme for the area, excluding Meliden, consists of a gravity scheme on the higher levels to which sewage is raised by Ejectors from the low lying areas, and the whole of the sewage is discharged untreated into the sea. The system has worked satisfactorily during the year. There is also a pumping station serving Y Ffrith which has operated satisfactorily.

Meliden Sewerage is also partly on the gravity system and partly pumped. The sewage is purified at a disposal works and discharged into a watercourse. The system is satisfactory.

The surface water sewerage system is separate from the foul water system and is satisfactory except during abnormal rainfall, when a small amount of flooding occurs, largely due to the unsatisfactory state of land drainage south of the main railway line.

No major alteration or additions have been carried out during the year; necessary repairs and alterations, due to wear and tear have received attention.

Food Supplies

Careful supervision has been maintained over the premises of retailers, especially those of Butchers, Bakeries and Dairies. For number of inspections, see Sanitary Inspector's report. All meat sold in the area is killed and inspected at the Public Abattoir, Rhyl.

The need for the greatest care in the preparation and handling of cooked meats, pies and pastries cannot be too strongly stressed in view of unfortunate experiences in past years. Inspection of premises has revealed a high standard of cleanliness in most premises

and the department's advice has been readily accepted when tendered.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

556 cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No formal action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse can now be regarded as satisfactory,

A heavy strain is placed on the service during the summer months due to the influx of visitors, and the occupation of camps.

To obtain additional land for refuse disposal, an application was made for the compulsory purchase of the only suitable site in the district. This step was necessary as all attempts to acquire the land by mutual agreement had failed. After the usual public enquiry, the order was confirmed.

Swimming Pools

There are two privately owned public pools. Samples of water are taken regularly during the season and are mainly satisfactory.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

These remain unchanged.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations of discharges, throat swabs, etc., are done at the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Conway. During 1953 they numbered 312. 90 Samples of water were despatched for bacteriological examination. Venereal swabs and blood requiring examination for venereal diseases are sent by the patients' doctors to the laboratory of the Chester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service

Infectious cases are removed to hospital by Ambulance which is afterwards disinfected and all cases of illness or accident are removed by the County Ambulance Service, the County having acquired the duty of the provision of an Ambulance Service since July, 1948. The County Council also supervises the Sitting Case Car Service.

Home Nursing

This is now a County Council Service, the Queen's Nurses being under the direction of the County Health Services.

There is one Home Help available in this district. Further particulars can be obtained from the County Health Office, Mold.

Clinics

Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Clinics are under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health. Infant Welfare Centre held at the Prestatyn School Clinic, Kings Avenue, every Friday 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. A Medical Officer attends every first and third Friday.

Orthopaedic Clinic at the Old Emmanuel School, Rhyl every second and fourth Tuesday mornings 10-30 to 12-30, Orthopaedic Nurse attends every session. Surgeon attends every two months.

Ante-Natal Clinic at Prestatyn School Clinic, Kings Avenue, first and third Friday, 1-30 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic, in charge of the Medical Officers of the Welsh Regional Board is held at 27 Edward Henry Street, Rhyl, every Friday at 10 a m.

Free Hospital, Sanatorium, Clinical and Domiciliary treatment is available to all persons suffering from tuberculosis by arrangements made with the Welsh Regional Board.

Venereal Disease

Treated at the Chester Royal Infirmary and St. Asaph General Hospital Out Patients Departments. All forms of venereal disease are examined and treated under conditions of strict secrecy Cost of travelling to the Infirmary is paid, if patients cannot afford to do so. The tracing of contacts and the follow up of defaulters is undertaken by the County Medical Officer's Department. The Clinic at St. Asaph General Hospital is held on Tuesdays, from 5.15 p m. to 7.15 p.m.

Hospitals

There are none in the Urban Area

Infectious cases are treated at the Hawarden or Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospitals.

Notification of Births, Maternity & Child Welfare

This service is entirely under the control of the Flintshire County Council and their health visitors.

Maternity Facilities

There are two private Maternity Homes in the area, and one, Chatsworth House, under the control of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Board,

There are four registered midwives practising in the area.

Opthalmia Neonatorum

No cases have been reported during the year.

Scabies

No cases have been notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

For number of new cases, etc. see Table II.

No action required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1926 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis)

The aftercare of persons suffering from Tuberculosis is dealt with by a special Committee, who meet quarterly to consider the needs, financial or otherwise of each individual case.

All patients are visited in their homes by specially appointed nurses under direction of the County Medical Officer and Tuberculosis Physician.

All dwellings are disinfected as and when required. A register is kept of all cases in the area.

Zymotic Diseases

The number notified during the year was 693 (see Table I). Of these 38 received treatment at Isolation Hospitals. Care is taken to see that all necessary disinfection of premises and clothing is carried out.

Immunisation

The above service was inaugurated in June, 1940. During the year 1953 72 children received their primary immunisation, 59 of these were under 6 years of age, and 13 between 5 and 14 years of age. In addition 56 children received boosting doses.

Since 1940, 2189 children have been immunised against diphtheria.

Immunisation can be obtained either from the Child's own doctor, or at The Welfare Clinic, Kings Avenue every fourth Wednesday in each month, from 2 to 3.30 p.m.

Vaccination

19 children under the age of 5 years, 5 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, and 5 persons over the age of 15 years received their primary vaccination during the year, 9 children and 30 adults were revaccinated during the year.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Material Act 1951

Premises on Register—Nil.
No action necessary.

Public Places of Entertainment

As required by Ministry of Health Circular 120/1920, all places of entertainment requiring Singing, Music and Dancing licences have been inspected for fire fighting apparatus, exits, general cleanliness, conveniences, etc., and except for minor defects, found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement

There has been no cause for complaint during the year. The local Steam Laundry is the only industry in the area, but by co-operation with the owners the smoke nuisance is reduced to a minimum.

Schools

Are under the control of the County Council Authority. The Heads of Schools are immediately notified of any cases of infectious diseases occuring amongst the scholars or in their homes.

Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the district.

GENERAL STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Social Conditions

The district is purely urban, and as a seaside resort its chief interest is the catering for and entertainment of visitors. There is a large amount of residential property which would have greatly increased but for

building restrictions during the war. The population largely consists of retired people.

Two Limestone Quarries are operating in the area. Unemployment is practically nil.

Area (in acres)	3,219
Population (Census 1910)	4,083
,, ,, 1931	4,511
Estimated population Mid 1953...	8,670
Estimated number of inhabited houses 1921 ...	770
,, ,, ,, ,, 1931 ...	1,579
,, ,, ,, ,, 1933 ...	1,590
Rateable value	£83,540
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£333

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The number of births registered was 108.

		M	F	Total
Births	Legitimate	63	38	108
	Illegitimate	3	4	

giving a rate per 1,000 population of 12.4, compared with the rate for England & Wales of is 15.5. Corrected for strict comparison our rate would be 14.5 per 1,000 population. The correction is required because we have an older than average population.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 1, giving a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 registered live births. The rate for England and Wales was 26 8 per 1,000 live births.

Still Births

Total 3. Males 0, Females 3, giving a rate per 1000 civilian population of 0 34, as compared with 0 35 for England and Wales

Death Rate

The total number of deaths of residents credited to the area was 127. The number of deaths of residents and non-residents registered by the local Registrar was 71. To this figure there has to be added 63 deaths of residents who died outside the area and 7 deaths subtracted, being those of non-residents who died within the area, giving a final figure of 127, which on our population of 8670 gives a crude death rate of 14.6 per 1,000 population. Corrected for comparative purposes our rate is 9.5. The rate for England & Wales is 11.4 deaths per 1,000 of the population.

The outstanding feature is that 41 deaths were those of persons between 70 and 80 years of age, 37 those of psrsons between 80 and 90 years of age, and 8 deaths of persons over 90 years of age.

Heart diseases accounted for 48 deaths, Intra-cranial haemorrhage for 17 deaths, and cancer for 26 deaths, all essentially diseases of elderly people.

Tuberculosis accounted for 2 deaths.

For causes of death see Table iii.

Cemetery

There have been 58 interments in Coed Bell Cemetery during 1953 as compared with 70 in 1952.

Protestants—52
Catholics—5
Common Grave—1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R RHYDWEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1953.

Disease.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—44	45—64	Over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	22	...	2	3	16	...	1	...	...	20
Diphtheria (Obs.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Whooping Cough	48	..	11	17	19	...	1	...	...	1
Measles	47	...	12	12	20	1	2	...	...	...
Lobar Pneumonia	9	...	...	2	1	...	3	...	3	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	556	...	...	...	38	32	173	293	20	10
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	...	...	.	4	...	...	3
Total	693	...	25	34	95	33	186	297	23	38

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...
1...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
25...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
45...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55...	...	...	...	...	....	...	...	...
65 & upw'd	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
	8	9	...	..	1	2	...	..

CASES ON REGISTER

	Males		Females		
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
Dec. 31st, 1952	59	5	35	3	102
Dec. 31st, 1953	66	5	42	3	116

TABLE III. – Causes of Deaths
during the year 1953

		Males	Females	Total
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	0	2	2
2	,, Other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic Diseases ...	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infection ...	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	4
11	,, ,, Lung Bronchus	6	0	6
12	,, ,, Breast ...	0	1	1
13	,, ,, Uterus ...	0	1	1
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	4	10
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	0	1
16	Diabetes	1	0	1
17	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	7	10	17
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	11	5	16
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	3	8
20	Other Heart Diseases ...	11	13	24
21	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	3	6
22	Influenza	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	2	3	5
24	Bronchitis	3	0	3
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	0	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhœa	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	0	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	0	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations ...	0	0	0
32	Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	4	7	11
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	1	0	1
34	All other Accidents ...	1	4	5
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and War Operations	0	0	0
	All Causes ...	69	58	127

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Your Inspector under this Act has reported as follows :—

Herewith are the particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area, during the year ending December 31st, 1953 :—

Description of Article	Number of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or below standard
Milk	20	16	4
Dairy Produce	3	3	
Ice Cream	5	3	2
Confectionery and Cakes	6	6	
Alcoholic Drinks ...	4	4	
Cooking Fats	6	6	
Meat Products ...	6	6	
Sausages	11	11	
Miscellaneous Groceries	—	—	
Patent Medicines ...	3	3	
Vegetable Colouring Matter	2	2	
Total	66	60	6

The four milk samples were slightly below standard for fat content, and warning letters were sent to the producers concerned.

The two ice cream samples were slightly deficient in sugar and fat, and warning letter was sent to the manufacturers concerned.

(Signed) E. LEWIS.

County Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1953

General Summary of Visits, Etc.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	62
Drainage	511
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	58
Fried Fish Shops	30
Camps, etc.	243
Factories and Workshops	57
Bakehouses	71
Public Conveniences...	119
Rats and Mice	252
Schools	4
Watercourses	95
Special Visits re Housing	142
Visits under Nat. Ast. Act, Sec 47 and 60	38
Premises re insect pests	124
Miscellaneous Visits and Reinspections	218
Complaints received and investigated	294
Number of Nuisances abated	791
Number of Preliminary notices served for nuisances	307
Formal notices for nuisances	—

Infectious Disease

Number of cases occuring	693
Enquiries	82
Number removed to Hospital	38
Disinfection	77

Meat & Food Inspection

Butchers Shops	41
Fishmongers	39
Grocers	83
Ice Cream Premises...	69
Food Preparing Premises	97

Sanitary Defects etc.

Number of stopped drains	329
Number of defective drains	8
Choked or insanitary ditches	5

Number of defective septic tanks	4
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	12
Defective E.C. and W.C.	4
Dirty condition of houses, outhouses and yards	10
Animals etc, kept under insanitary conditions	8
Want of Lime Washing	8
Defective inspection chambers	2
Defective sink and wastepipes	21
Defective Roofs	1
Defective Floors	6
Defective Pavings	2
Defective eaves and downspouts...	2
Defective doors	4
Defective windows	10
Defective sinks and washbasins	2
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	—
Accumulaion of Refuse	18
Dilapidated dust bins	84
Defective wall and ceiling plaster	10
Dampness	6
Defective Grates	3
Infestations by insect pests	68
Defective Chimneys	2
Rat & Mice infestations	117
Miscellaneous	31

Nuisances from premises other than dwellings

Public Halls	16
Farms & Dairies	29
Camps & Caravans	51
Cafes	18
Offices	15
Shops	20
Food Shops	47
Schools	11
Bakeries	18
Hotels	34
Garages, Etc.	15
Fried Fish Shops	9
Miscellaneous	38

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of visits re Collection and Salvage	83
Number of visits re Disposal	157

The refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping on a site off Fforddisa. Collection is by one Karrier C.K.3 (10 cu. yd.) and one Karrier Bantam (7 cu. yd.). Each lorry draws a trailer for salvage collection. The Bantam is due for replacement by a 10 cu. yd. vehicle.

The maintainence of a weekly collection with existing lorries and staff is becoming increasingly difficult owing to the number of new houses being built in the area, and also to the strain put on the service during the summer season by the occupation of the camps and the influx of visitors into the town.

Consideration will have to be given in the near future to splitting the town into three collection districts instead of two as at present.

Householders can help to keep the service regular by disposing of garden refuse themselves, and by keeping waste paper and rags out of the bin for salvage.

New land for refuse tipping has been acquired adjoining the existing tip, and work should start on this land in the Spring of 1954.

A word of praise and thanks must go to the refuse collectors for their loyalty and cheerfulness in carrying out—often under difficulties—a very dull and dirty job in all weather.

Sick leave taken by the refuse staff (12 men) during the year totalled 110 days as compared with 99 days last year.

1786 loads weighing 3350 tons were collected and disposed of, also, 26 nightsoil pails are serviced each week.

No charge is made for disposal of refuse by private persons at the refuse tip.

Total tonnage refuse collected	3350
Total tonnage refuse disposed of	4476
Area of district, in acres	3655
Population	8670
Number of premises...	3671
Rateable value	£83540
Product of 1d. in £	£333
General Rate in £	21s. 2d.

Salvage

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs		£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper ...	170	8	0	18	...	1131	8	9
White Paper ...	6	15	2	15	...	67	12	8
Mags. and Books ...	7	2	2	16	...	58	11	8
Rags	9	12	2	7	...	205	4	4
Mixed Metal ...		17	1	11	...	10	5	2
Bones	2	15	0	0	...	18	7	7
Heavy Iron ...	1	4	0	0	...	4	16	0
Light Iron ...		13	0	0	...		19	6
	199	8	1	11		£1497	5	8
Salvage 1952 ...	159	0	1	4		£1642	15	3

The continued need for collecting waste paper cannot be too strongly stressed. The revenue from waste paper, rags and metals can make a substantial contribution to the rate fund. May I therefore again appeal to housewives to keep paper, cardboard and rags separate from refuse.

Waste paper is dealt with by an electrically powered baler which has proved to be very economical to work.

Another aspect of salvaged paper is that the sale of paper to the Board Mills has now become a standard method of disposal and has resulted in considerable improvement in refuse tips. The handling of such a large amount of waste paper in any other way would give rise to a cost which is reasonably comparable to the cost of separating and baling and would have no income to offset against it.

Water Sampling

	Bacteriological	Chemical
Town Main supply....	40	7
Holywell R.D.C. supply	12	1
Private Supply, Wells, etc.	0	0
Streams	4	0
Swimming Pools	26	0
Total samples taken...	82	8

The Bacteriological reports on the main supplies have been Class 1. Highly satisfactory.

The samples from Streams were a check on possible fouling by septic tank effluents, the results were satisfactory for stream water.

Regular samples are taken from the two Swimming Pools during the season and the results were generally satisfactory.

Milk Supplies

Number of Samples taken of each grade

Pasteurised	11
Tuberculin Tested	43
Accredited	11
Ungraded	33
Total ...	102

Results of Examinations

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	42	1
Accredited	10	1
Pasteurised	11	0
Ungraded	31	2
Sterilised	4	0

Number of farms producing milk within the district ...	9
Tuberculin tested ...	7
Ungraded ...	2

The milk producers and retailers are to be congratulated on these results. The samples are taken monthly, so the results show a continued attention to clean milk production methods throughout the year.

The Ministry of Feod have informed us that Prestatyn will be included in a "Specified Area" for milk distribution some time in 1954.

A "Specified Area" means an area in which all raw milk therein must carry a "Special Designation" or be heat treated.

Milk Licenses

Dealers Licenses—	Tuberculin tested	5
	Pasteurised	9
	Sterilized	16
Supplementary Licenses—	Tuberculin tested ...	3
	Pasteurised	4
	Sterilized	2
Milk Distributors on Register—	... ...	17
Visits to Dairies and Milk shops	....	92

Biological Testing

Sixteen Samples of milk were submitted for Biological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The results proved to be negative in each case.

Fried Fish Shops

Number of Fried Fish shops in District 6
These shops are well conducted.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream 4
Premises for sale only 36
Premises for manufacture of sausages, cocked meat etc. 14

Ice Cream

Twenty-six samples of this commodity were taken during the season and the results are as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	9
Grade II	...	...	12
Grade III	...	...	5
Grade IV	...	...	0

Those in Grade I and II can be regarded as satisfactory.

These results are satisfactory and they go to show the keen interest taken by the manufacturers and vendors to serve the public with a clean and wholesome article of food.

Meat & other Food Inspection

All the town's Meat supply is slaughtered and inspected at the Rhyl Municipal Abattoir.

Other foods, canned goods etc.. are inspected as necessary and the following is a list of unsound food condemned in shops.

Fats	0lbs.
Fish	37lbs.
Meat	162lbs.
Milk and Milk Products	73lbs.
Soups....	7lbs.
Vegetables, Fruit	624lbs,
Miscellaneous	1lb.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1938.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Inspection of Food Premises	
Bakehouses	71
Restaurant Kitchens	125
Food Preparation Premisess	47
Fish Friers	30
Proposed Food Premises	—
School Kitchens	8
Snack Bars	21
Public Houses	20
Other Food Premises	220
Notices	
Informal	87
Statutory	—
Defects	
Structural	5
Drainage	56
Tables and Benches	11
Floors, Walls, Ceilings	5
Want of re-decoration	10
Inadequate W.C. accommodation	—
,, washing facilities	—
,, ventilation	—
,, artificial lighting	—
,, hot water supply	—
,, accommodation for refuse... ...	—

Food premises are inspected periodically and any nuisances are quickly remedied, on the occupiers notice being drawn to them

No. of Visits to Food Premises 542

Byelaws under Section 15 of Food & Drugs Act 1938

No formal action was taken under the Byelaws during the year :

Private & Adoptive Acts, in force

Prestatyn Urban District Act 1909.
Prestatyn Water Act 1901.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.
Public Health Acts (Ammendment) Act 1890 (Whole Act)
Public Libraries Acts 1892 and 1893.
Private Street Works Act 1892
Public Health Act 1925 (Whole Act)
Public Health Acts (Ammendment) Act 1907 (Except Parts V, VII and IX).

Byelaws

Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions in Handling Food 1950.

Building Byelaws 1939.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Similar Structures used for human habitation 1931.

Nuisances 1899.

Slaughterhouses 1899.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	48		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities				
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
TOTAL	44	48	Nil	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions where instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	8	8		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature ...				
Inadequate ventilation ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors...				
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient				
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	9	9		
(c) not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)				
TOTAL	17	17	Nil	Nil

Rodent Infestation
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The duties of the Rodent Officer are carried out by the General Assistant in the Health Department.

The sewers were testbaited during the year. 57 manholes were baited at intersections in the sewerage system. There were no "bait takes" which indicates that the rat population of the sewers at that time was practically nil.

Small infestations, chiefly backyard poultry keepers, are dealt with as they arise.

The refuse tip and sewage works are treated regularly and there is no "resident" rat population, but we usually have an invasion at harvest time.

The residents of Prestatyn are extremely good at carrying out the Ministry exhortation of "Report that Rat", and the Department endeavours to take prompt action on receipt of such reports.

The disinfestation service is free to householders and a small charge is made for work done on business premises.

Particular attention is paid to agricultural land, especially at harvest time when nests, etc. are disturbed.

"Wafarin" as a poison has proved to be very effective and it has been possible to clean up some very stubborn infestations,

Camps

There are five licensed camping sites in the district.

Bastion Road Camp	30 acres	354 plots
Pen-y-Ffrith Camp	2½ acres	50 plots

White House Camp	¼ acre	4 plots
Tan-y-Don Camp	3 acres	60 plots
Prestatyn Holiday Camp	7 acres	110 plots

Tan-y-Don is a Caravan Club Site.

Preparations on the new site adjoining the Prestatyn Holiday Camp are now complete and the Camp will be open at Easter, 1954.

Each Camp has sufficient sanitary and ablution blocks connected to the main sewer. Water supply is from the town main and refuse is collected weekly. Waste food is collected from each site by a pig keeper.

The sites are very well conducted and the owners (three of whom are resident on the sites) co-operate fully with this Department in keeping the sites clean and tidy. Bastion Road Camp has a Camping Association with a form of "self government" of the site.

The district is very popular with organisations such as Boy Scouts, Boys Brigade, etc., and individual Campers. During the month of August several fields are occupied by these camps. Inspections are made and I find that, almost without exception, they are maintained in good condition.

Talacre Warren

There are 78 huts within the district, 25% of which are permanently occupied. The remainder are occupied during the summer months only.

This district is not sewered, nightsoil is disposed of by chemical closets and sullage water to soakaway pits. Owing to the sandy nature of the subsoil there is no nuisance in this respect.

The water supply is part of the Holywell R.D.C. supply and during the peak periods of the summer months the supply is not always adequate.

The old method of collection of communal bin sites and dumps has been abolished this year and each chalet and shack now has a dustbin which is emptied by this Department each week.

Public Conveniences

The town has eight public conveniences and these are maintained by this Department. They are situated at the Parking Ground, near the Palladium Cinema, Coronation Gardens, two at the Central Beach, Ffrith Beach, near the Golf House, at the Hillside Gardens, and at Meliden.

The Meliden Conveniences were completed in October and have proved an asset to the village, not being in the built up area, and to summer motorists, etc., who find them very useful.

I regret having to reiterate that while every effort is made to keep these conveniences clean they are often sadly misused by the public, and much wanton damage is done. Short of having a caretaker in attendance all day, one hundred per cent cleanliness cannot be maintained. Unfortunately each unit is so small that this is obviously impracticable.

Watercourses

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Maes y Ffynnon and Jubilee ditches in a clear state, and, following a heavy rainstorm in November and consequent flooding of premises in Nant Hall Road, the Council have resolved to culvert these ditches during 1954.

The cut connecting the Prestatyn Gutter to the sewage tanks and outfall was completed to the outfall and it is pleasing to note that the Prestatyn Gutter, which receives water from these ditches, is now being maintained at a very low level. It is to be hoped that when the culverting is complete and the other ditches brought to a proper level that the land on the Morfa and near the railway line will be drier and derive much benefit from these works.

A quantity of sewage is still finding its way into Maesyllymmon via the surface water sewer. Arrangements are being made for the re-sewering of the offending block of buildings.

Licensed Premises

All premises requiring a Magistrates licence were inspected during the year, and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions,

The premises inspected are as follows :—

Licensed Houses	7
Licensed Clubs	7
Public Halls, Cafe, etc	8
Cinemas	2

I am pleased to say that I did not have to report adversely on any of these premises.

Mortuary

The mortuary was in use on 17 occasions and 17 postmortem examinations were carried out there.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health orHousing Acts) 43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 59

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 34

2 Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 30

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(1a) Number of houses for which Undertakings were accepted 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act, 1936 (*Overcrowding*)

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 2

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 7

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 14

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... nil

The foregoing figures may give the impression that there is no overcrowding problem. It must, however, be remembered that these figures refer to "legal overcrowding" in which the standard is very low compared with the normal standards in this area.

The legal standard recognises living rooms as sleeping rooms, so that an ordinary 5 roomed house (2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms) could legally house 10 adults without been legally overcrowded.

In considering the cases of applicants for houses the Council recognises a "bedroom standard" for overcrowding and this has helped to relieve many cases of near legal overcrowding.

Houses owned by the Local Authority

The following is a list of properties owned by the Council.

Caradoc Terrace	15	7 x 3	bedrooms,	8 x 2	bedrooms
Dawson Park	72	60 x 3	,,	12 x 2	,,
Bryn Melyd Road	22	18 x 3	,,	4 x 2	,,
Isfryn Road	22	22 x 2	,,		
Bryn Rhosyn	174	174 x 3	,,		
Maes Hendre	87	4 x 4	,,	71 x 3	,,
			and	12 x 2	,,

As this will be my last report to the Prestatyn U.D.C., may I express my thanks to the Council for a very happy seven years spent in its service, and also for the help, support and many kindnesses shown by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Dr. R. Rhydwen, Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk, Treasurer, Surveyor, and both the indoor and outdoor staff.

I. WYNN JONES,
Sanitary Inspector.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Temperature

Highest Temperature	87° on 12th August
Lowest Temperature	22° on 2nd & 6th March
Number of days below freezing point ...	20 days

Sunshine

Total for the year	1572.6 hours
Highest Monthly Total	(May) 224 hours
Lowest Monthly Total	(December) 26.5 hours

Rainfall

Total for the year	22 06 inches
Below normal	4.6 inches
Wettest Month	(November) 3 08 inches
Driest Month	(January) 0.62 inches

Visibility

Fog occurred on 7 days.

Wind

Gales of over 18 m.p.h. ... ... — ...	Nil